Shoujo AFTERNOON KC

鏡面のシルエット 4

The Silhouette of Specular

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KYOUMEN NO SILHOUETTE
BY YUNA [illegible] TSUKIE AMAYAMA
CHAPTER 22 - LOVE'S VIOLA

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HEY... DID YOU HEAR?
AH... ABOUT LORD ALFRED RAISING AN INSURRECTION?
YEAH... ANYHOW, IT SEEMS THE PRINCESS HAS OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE.
...AND YET, IF THE NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN...
CIVIL... WAR...?

Chapter 22
Love's Viola
My mission hasn't changed, even under these circumstances ...?
Nothing but observe everything for His Majesty the Emperor.

HE WOULD PREFER TO SETTLE IT PEACEFULLY IF HE COULD, BUT...
ALREADY, NOT EVEN HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR CAN HALT THE ELDER PRINCE... LORD ORFEVRE'S INFLUENCE. IT CONTINUES TO GROW.
LORD KAGURA! SOMEHOW, CALM DOWN!!
THE OPPOSITION WISHES TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PRINCESS FIRST.
BLUD-GEON THE TRAI-TOR TO DEATH !!!

もぎ
もぎ
EH?
LA...DY... ELNAVISTA ...
THIS ISN'T A GOOD PLACE, LADY ELNAVISTA MIGHT...
SFX: MUNCH, MUNCH
だらぁ
HMM?
YOU CALLED?
SFX: DROOL
THAT FRUIT'S CALLED 'WATER-MELON.'
THIS FRUIT'S YUMMY.
.....
WOULD YOU TRUST IN THE CURRENT ELNAVISTA FOR SUCH A JOB?
UU..
GOOD GRIEF.

IF IT'S ONLY ALFRED'S TROOPS, WE'LL ANNIHILATE THEM IN HALF A DAY!!!
COUNT ON ME!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
AS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WORD ON THE STREET IS THAT WE'RE STALLING SO THAT OUR ARMY CAN BE IN A BETTER POSITION.
FIRST OF ALL!
.....
HMPH.
JEEZ. IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
OH SHUT UP!! I WANT TO FIGHT!!!
BUT LORD KAGURA... FIRST THE TALKS...

WELL THEN!! I'LL GO IN PLACE OF THE PRINCESS!
IT ISN'T TIME FOR YOU TO SHOW YOURSELF...
TESHIO...
SFX: GLARE
WHA...?
NOM, NOM
AS-SUR-EDLY.
WELL THEN, WITH TESHIO DRESSED AS HER LADYSHIP ENTERING INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS...
LET'S TRY TO ADJUST THINGS ALONG THOSE LINES.

OF COURSE! WARS ARE NO GOOD! YEP.
AND, WELL, I'VE GROWN AS "SHADOW" TOO.
SOME-HOW IT'LL WORK OUT!

SFX: DIZZY...

SO CAREFREE... OR ARE YOU SO FULL OF YOUR-SELVES...?
AREN'T SUCH MATTERS NOT EASY ONES TO SETTLE!?
AND BESIDES
IF A CERTAIN "SHADOW" WERE TO BE EXPOSED AT THE NEGO-TIATIONS

ALL IS AS MY LORDSHIP EXPECTED...
THE EMPIRE'S ELDER PRINCE
...OR RATHER, HIS MAJESTY THE NEXT EMPEROR.
THE CROWN PRINCE ORFEVRE!

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE NOBODY'S ON THE SIDE OF THE ARCH-DUKE...
ALREADY, SHOULD THE EMPIRE'S TROOPS (AS ALFRED'S ALLIES) BE DEPLOYED TO THIS CASTLE,
THEN THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO EASILY DEAL WITH THE ARCHDUKE'S PERSONAL GUARD.
THE ARCHDUKE'S POWER WILL BE SO ABASED BY THAT VICTORY THE PRINCES WILL EMBRACE THEIR DISCONTENT AND FOLLOW ME.
THERE WILL BE AN UNEXPECTED OUTBREAK OF CIVIL WAR.
THE PRESENT GOVERN-MENT WILL BE OVER-THROWN.
AND THEN I WILL BECOME THE NEW RULER OF THIS COUNTRY!

UWAAH...
LET'S DO OUR BEST TO WORK TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.
HEE HEE HEE HEE
WELL THEN, WITH THIS...
HMPH
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, ERNESTO?
THIS IS MY "COUNTRY BREAKER."
...I SEE.
IF IT LOOKS LIKE A "CIVIL WAR", IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A "CEASE FIRE"...
SO, MY ELDER BROTHER, YOU WILL "MAINTAIN THE PEACE" BY CONVERTING THEM INTO A VASSAL STATE LIKE THIS, EH?
...INDEED.

IF I CAN COME TO HAVE PRINCESS ELNAVISTA AS MY "INSTRUMENT", THEN THERE IS NO WAY MY PLAN WILL END IN FAILURE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO OBTAIN THE "BLOOD OF THE HIGH KING" TOO?
'FAIL-URE' ...?
YOU INTEND TO DO SUCH A THING TO TEST PRINCESS ELNA..
BUT ...
FOR YOU ...
WITH ALL YOUR RESOURCE-FULNESS, THERE IS NO NEED!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY SUCH THING. SINCE YOU WILL BE THE NEXT EMPEROR...
..., PFFT ...
EVER SINCE MY "INSTRUMENT" CAME INTO BEING, IT HAS BEEN STICKING OUT TOO MUCH...
LOOKS LIKE IT, EH?
YOU'RE RIGHT
FOR THAT VERY REASON..

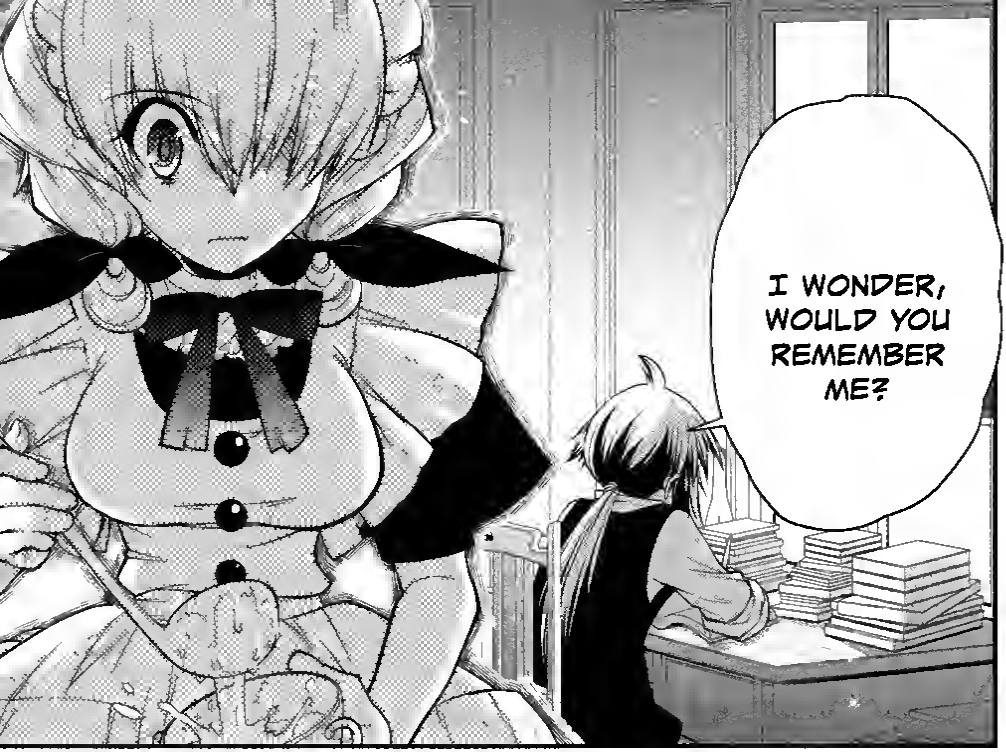
IT IS FUTILE.
FOR FATHER, THE HIGH KING... THE SO-CALLED ARCHDUKE OF MARIAS WAS AN EQUAL OPPONENT.
HOWEVER, BY THE TIME I TAKE CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY HE WILL BE GONE...
I WOULD PREFER A LIFE IN WHICH I CAN MAKE WAR ON EQUAL TERMS.
IF THAT HAPPENS, THE PRESENCE THAT BURIES MY PREPARATIONS IN FUTILITY
THE MARIAS PRINCESS, ELNAVISTA LEOPOLDO
WILL NOT BE THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE INHERITED THE BLOOD OF THE HIGH KING!
...EH?

SO THAT "THE BLOOD OF THE HIGH KING" WOULD NOT BE EXTERMI-NATED.
I LEFT WITHOUT KILLING HER THAT TIME,
HEH HEH... SOON, I WILL SEE THE GROWN ELNAVISTA ...
HEH...
IN FACT... IN FACT, I'M LOOKING FOR-WARD TO IT!!
HAHA HA...
UNLIKE MY OTHER, OLDER BROTHERS, I AM NOT SEEKING THE "BLOOD OF THE HIGH KING" IN POLITICAL SELF-INTEREST.
THAT IS NO LONGER
MY DELUSION ...
IT'S PERIL-OUS ...

THAT...
IT'S PERILOUS, ISN'T IT...?
I DON'T THINK HE COULD PULL THE WOOL OVER HIS EYES...
LORD TESHIO WOULD BE KILLED UTTERLY.
IF HE KNEW THAT A "SHADOW" HAD BEEN CREATED, IT WOULD SURELY ROUSE LORD ORFEVRE'S WRATH.
SFX: BUBBLE, BUBBLE
WITH THIS POWDER PREPARED FROM HYPNOTIC MUSHROOMS...
THEN I WILL BE ABLE TO HIDE HIM SOME-WHERE...
I WILL MAKE LORD TESHIO FALL ASLEEP.
SFX: RUMMAGE AROUND
I CANNOT PREVENT IT!
SFX: GRIND... (TEETH)

SFX: KNOCK KNOCK
AH~ COME IN...
...LORD TESHIO, I BROUGHT YOUR EVENING MEAL.
SFX: RATTLE, RATTLE...
BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLACE WHERE YOU NEED TO PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE...!
...LORD TESHIO...

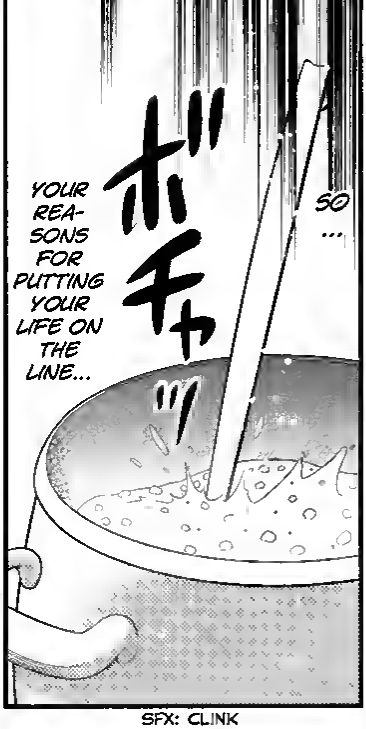
I HATE THIS~ NAOE-SAN SET ME TO LEARNING THE BASICS OF GOVERNMENT AND NEGOTIA-TIONS...
...JEEZ. I'M NOT TOO GOOD WITH MY LETTERS, SO THIS IS A MESS.
SFX: CLINK...
...IS THAT... SO?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK...
.....
HEY, RIO.
IF I WERE TO DIE,


I WONDER, WOULD YOU REMEMBER ME?

...HUH?
SOME-HOW OR OTHER,
THIS TIME IS NOT A JOKE.
AND FRANKLY... I'M SCARED.
HE MEANT IT SERIOUSLY!?
WHETHER I CAN STOP IT, OR NOT...
BUT AS FOR WAR, OF COURSE, I AM SORRY.

HE RECOGNIZES THE DANGER, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
AND YET, WHY...!?
BE-SIDES
IF I RAN AWAY, I WOULD FEEL I'D BE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE PRINCESS TOO.
IF SUCH A THING WERE TO HAPPEN,
I
WOULD REGRET IT MY ENTIRE LIFE!

WERE NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE...


YOUR REA-SONS FOR PUTTING YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE...
SO ...
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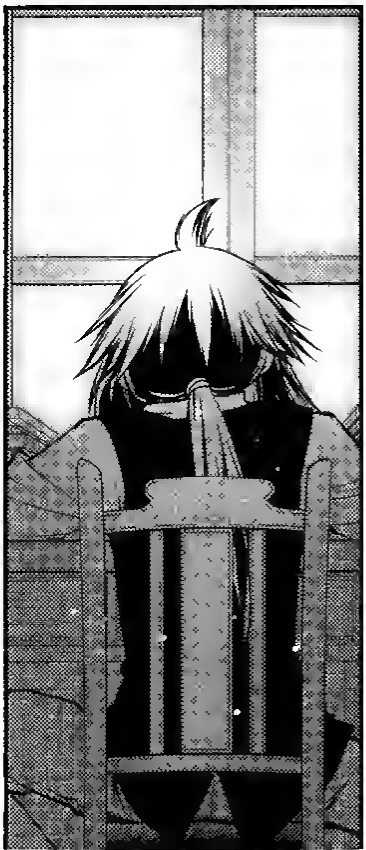
SFX: CLINK



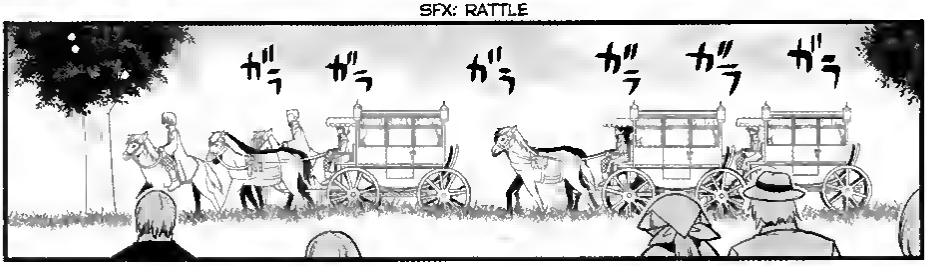
SFX: RATTLE, RATTLE
HEY ...
WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU TAKING DINNER AWAY?
ALL RIGHT! NOW FOR DINNER ...
DON'T YOU THINK ALL THAT'S A LITTLE OVER-BLOWN?
I WON'T GIVE DINNERS
TO IDIOTS LIKE YOU.
GROWL
EH?

SFX: RATTLE...
SFX: SLAM...
HEY, I'M SORRY.
BUT THAT CHILD IS THE PRINCESS'S "SHADOW"...
WELL... I HAVE ONE MORE THING TO PREPARE.
!?

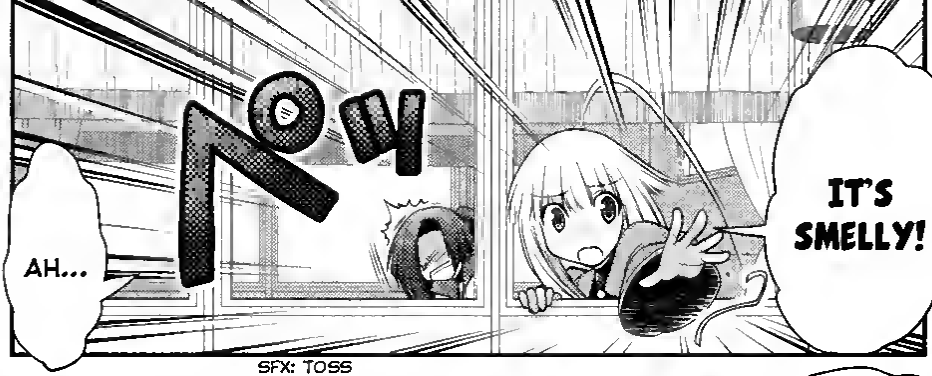
SFX: CROWD NOISES
EVERYONE INVITED,
LET'S MOVE OUT!!!
SFX: CLACK, CLACK...

SFX: RATTLE

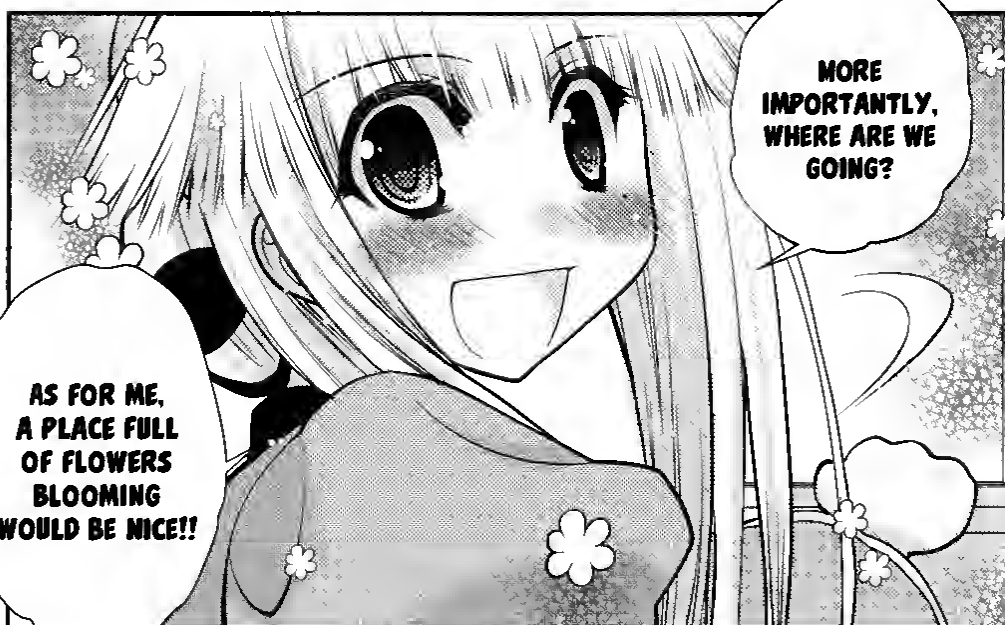
SFX: RATTLE



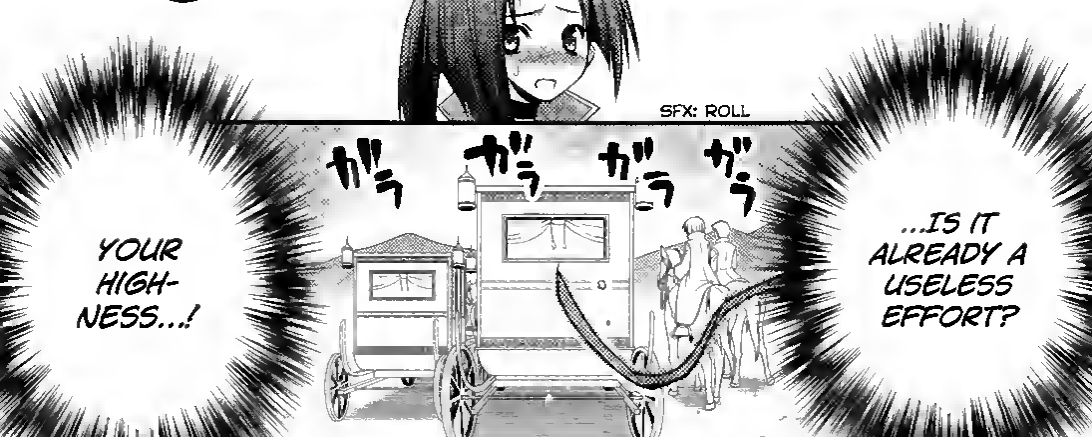
THE FIRST TIME HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE YOU...
IT IS SOMETHING YOUR "SHADOW" GAVE TO YOU.
?
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER THIS CORD?
YOUR HIGH-NESS...



SFX: TOSS



SFX: ROLL



Chapter 22 – The End